

## THE WASHINGTON HERALD

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING BY  
THE WASHINGTON HERALD COMPANY  
1222 New York Avenue. Telephone MAIN 2200.

CLINTON T. BRANARD, President and Editor.

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Entered at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., as second-class mail matter.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1914.

The German navy is still keeping its powder dry.

And now the breweries are advocating a buy-a-keg movement.

Some Congressmen thought the warehouse bill wouldn't hold water.

Various courts of the country are still trying to untangle the Webb law.

And at one time the world was all agog over the doings of Cipriano Castro.

The headline writers continue to display marvelous skill in handling their forces.

Science will never be wholly successful until it discovers a specific for the war germ.

We regret to note that the war has not stopped the use of certain kinds of sachet powder.

If some of the cotton operators keep on, the cotton goods question will be worn threadbare.

Isn't it remarkable how a poor man can recover from an attack of appendicitis without an operation?

If they would abolish the use of trenches in warfare the battles would not be so long drawn out.

Will opera stars ever be paid sufficient salaries to enable them to quit advertising tobacco and cosmetics, and other things?

It is our opinion that the oyster pirates in the Chesapeake Bay are engaged in what might be called a shell game.

Now it is said that there is a mirror trust. Let the Department of Justice employ a woman lawyer to look into the matter.

Now comes a report from California that the hop growers are making a bumper crop and that they are on the jump to gather it.

It is claimed that Mary Garden is the American Venus. You would like to see upon what the claim is based, wouldn't you, Jason?

It is stated that a barber has been made colonel of a French regiment, and now every paragraph in this country will begin talking about French barbarities.

Gov. Ferris, of Michigan, has pardoned a convict on condition that he will not wed. We are disposed to place Gov. Ferris' name high up on the list of friends of women.

Strange are the ways of the Mexicans. Carranza wanted to resign and they wouldn't let him. If he had wanted to remain in office they would have put him out. What is to be done with such people?

The President of France would not take a chance on being captured, so he decided that he would go with his cabinet to Bordeaux. And he's there yet, for all we kneaux.

The debate in the Senate in which Senators Thomas and Bristow referred to Germany's treatment of Belgium suggests the advisability of reading the President's neutrality proclamation at the opening of the session every day.

It does not require a Sherlock Holmes to trace a connection between what has happened in Liege, Louvain and Rheims and the explosion of bombs in St. Patrick's Cathedral and the yard of St. Aloysius' rectory in New York. It is a natural conclusion that the imagination of some demented person has been inflamed by the reports of cathedral-wrecking exploits and that he is striving to emulate them.

The District board of medical supervisors asks the Commissioners, the police and the public to cooperate in driving out of business the charlatans and practitioners representing different so-called cures. It might also be a good idea for the District government to stop issuing licenses to the palmists and fortune tellers who thrive on superstition and ignorance.

The governor of Arizona will hardly carry out his announced intention of sending State troops to Naco and Douglas on the Mexican border in defiance of the protest of the President and Secretary Garrison. The Washington authorities are handling the delicate situation calmly and no doubt effectively. The presence of State troops could accomplish no good and would only add to the complications. With the Mexicans fighting in their own backyard, it is no time for the people of Arizona to hang around peeping over the fence.

The progressive Chamber of Commerce has gone on record in favor of suffrage for the District. It is a project which should be given the most careful consideration by every civic organization and by the people of Washington individually. If it is ascertained that the majority want the ballot, the task of preparing a measure to provide for it will call for the best thought and wisest counsel that the city affords. There have been complaints that District affairs have been unwisely administered or neglected altogether by Congress, and in the past few years there have been good grounds for such complaints, but in seeking a remedy in the ballot citizens of Washington must proceed with deliberation and caution lest they not only fail to improve on the present system, but encounter new dangers.

## The "Impregnable" Fortress.

Now that we have recovered a little from the surprise of it—the collapse of the defense of Antwerp after a siege of only eleven days—we are led very naturally to the conclusion that there is no longer such a thing as an "impregnable" fortress. War is always a dispeller of illusions, and in the present instance it has shattered a belief which has been held not only by mankind in ordinary, but even by those expert in the science of military defense. Flanked and girdled with double, even triple, lines of forts, redoubts, batteries and all the obstructions known to military invention, this Gibraltar of the Scheldt had been classed among the world's "impregnable" strongholds by many a generation. An ancient center of civilization and a depository for famous objects of art and industry, such a thing as solicitude for the city's safety had been unknown in recent times.

It is the hitherto undemonstrated potency of the big guns and the new shells made at Essen which has discredited the impregnability of Antwerp and every other similarly fortified point on the globe. It has been made apparent even to those who know little or nothing of military engineering that the theory of fortified centers has received a blow from which it is not likely to recover until something which will resist the pounding of these all-penetrating Krupp shells be devised. Even the most modern systems of defense are not proof against these crushing weapons of offense. Their carrying power and accuracy of aim make them more than a match for any form of artificial obstruction known to military engineers.

Progress in the art of military defense has not kept pace with the enterprise and initiative of the gunmakers. The time has come when a fortified center, albeit the product of exhaustive effort on the part of its designers, cannot be regarded as a safe hiding place for a beleaguered garrison or as a fit depository for treasures whose loss would impoverish the entire world of art.

Fortification, of course, suggests the probability of attack, and even invites it. "I am here, ready and waiting; come and get me if you can," is the principle involved. There is some reason to believe that this invitation will be less spontaneous than it was before the recent demonstration at Liege, Namur and Antwerp of the tremendous destructive power of the new Krupp shells and siege guns. In future, also, far less dependence will be put on the staying qualities of the "impregnable" fortress.

## The Views of a Banker.

The speech of President Arthur Reynolds, of the American Bankers' Association, yesterday at Richmond, follows closely the line of argument of President Vanderlip, of the National City Bank of New York. Both Mr. Vanderlip and Mr. Reynolds dwell upon the desirability of the business man entering politics.

Mr. Reynolds believes that public opinion when properly informed would not tolerate the handicaps legislation imposes upon business, and he urges that the citizen, the man from whom the lawmaker holds his commission, should exercise his share of influence in the making of the law as well as in its administration.

Mr. Reynolds points to the railroad situation and deplors the fact that the Interstate Commerce Commission has failed to aid the carriers in "their reasonable requests." "This," says he, "not only has undermined the values of one of the most important instruments for savings funds," which will be felt not so much by the banks and business men as by the salaried man and wage earner. In addition, he declares, the value of these stocks will be impaired in the minds of European holders, who estimate them in proportion to their earnings, and who will sell them, thus calling for additional exportations of gold with its attendant business disturbances.

"The business men of the country," says Mr. Reynolds, "are anxious to see the end of the depressing influence of Congressional interference and bureaucratic restriction; they regard present methods rather as tyrannical than liberal, and no progress toward permanent prosperity is possible under a continuation in the present course."

The position of the president of the Bankers' Association probably represents the view of a great majority of his business associates and will serve to call general attention to a legislative and administrative program that has failed to receive the endorsement which its political followers are heralding.

## Preservation of Life and Property.

Only a few years ago it was charged against the United States that its people were shamefully indifferent to the safeguarding of human life in transportation and in the industries. It was constantly asserted, and with good reason, that many thousands of lives were needlessly sacrificed every year. Then came the safety first movement, which has been rapidly extending until it has been adopted by nearly all the great corporations throughout the country. Yesterday a report was submitted to the National Council of Industrial Safety, in convention in Chicago, a report showing that in six years deaths and injuries resulting from industrial accidents in the United States have been reduced one-half. Six years ago, the report set forth, there was an average of 25,000 deaths, resulting from 2,000,000 industrial accidents annually. Considering that the safety first movement is comparatively young yet, and that it was in anything like extensive operation for only a part of the six years covered by the report, it is evident that the number of casualties will be still further reduced. The United States is well on the way toward ridding itself of the reproach, once justified, of being indifferent to the wholesale killing and maiming of railway passengers and industrial wage earners.

Such tremendous results accomplished in the preservation of life and limb by the exercise of ordinary precautions suggest great possibilities in the way of reducing the number of fires, most of which are preventable, and which cost the country in the neighborhood of \$200,000,000 every year.

## The Busy "Go-Fans."

The rhymes about the "Go-Fans" appearing daily in The Herald are not only amusing, but, it must be admitted, they also depict accurately the trend of modern American family life. More and more we are getting to take our pleasures and amusements seriously. Work hard and play hard is the order of the day and night. The public demands entertainment, and providing it has become a really important business. It has become old fashioned to sit at home and read in the evenings, and, whether it is good for us or not, there must be something doing all the time. The average American works harder than the European, particularly the Englishman. A day of steady application at the office or store, he figures, entitles him to an evening of recreation, which begins directly after dinner, and the

other members of the family follow the example of the head of the house. A greater variety of amusements than ever are provided for them, many of which may be enjoyed by the entire family together.

One effect of the busy evening spent in recreation is that the women are becoming as well informed on current events as the men. Between breakfast and dinner they find opportunity to read the morning papers and are able to tell the men folks the news of the day before the dash for the vaudeville, or the movies, or the dance.

Truly the "Go-Fans" lead a busy life and their tribe is legion.

## For What Are We Fighting?

An Appeal to Plain Men from an English Viewpoint.

In one short week the peoples of all the big states of the most civilized part of the Old World suddenly discovered that the statement who control their destinies had condemned them to a colossal and a frightful war. "Violence and statecraft at their worst," said the *Pittsburgh Courier*, speaking of the German government, but the term applies to the working of the whole European system.

For what are we fighting? The war has not come simply because this or that statesman or government has lost its head, or has made an insulting proposition, nor because the peoples of different countries do not see eye to eye in some question of right and wrong, nor again because Britain has suddenly realized a duty to a little state. The causes are far deeper. Britain and Germany, France and Austria-Hungary, Russia and Italy have pursued a policy these many years which the friends of international good relations have long pointed to as certain to bring disaster. And this is the policy of dividing Europe into two rival and heavily armed camps.

The powers of the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente lie at the heart of the matter. To each other, but with a constant doubt and fear in their hearts and always from the point of view of potential enemies.

Again Mr. Winston Churchill has told us that the way to preserve peace is to be so strong that no one will dare attack you. But unfortunately for his "wise" notion it has been adopted as a maxim by all the powers. All have piled up armaments simultaneously, utterly destroying thereby any possible value there may have been in the Churchill proposition. And "these things," said Mr. Asquith in 1908, speaking of the same armaments, "are things that are made to be used." The day of use has now come, to the shame and to the infinite suffering of at least eight nations.

In the days before the fatal week Sir Edward Grey made many efforts to maintain the peace. All same he pressed his proposition for a European conference. But it cannot be forgotten that even when he spoke to Germany of peace, he spoke from what to Germany was a hostile camp, the camp of the Triple Entente. A camp he remembered in which for years, as she has told us in the now famous White Paper, there had been conferences and conversations between the British and the German experts of France and Great Britain with a view to joint preparedness for future war.

The balance of power, the ententes and alliances and the big armaments, these famous instruments for peace have proved to be utterly rotten, and universal war is the result.

Now it behooves plain men to look to the future. Germany has thrown down the challenge and German military power will be broken though the struggle may be long and disastrous. But what of the future? Is German power, resting on the sword, to be broken down by naval and military power, the power of a vast state still more despotic, far less civilized, and where the plain men have less voice in directing the affairs of peace and war than even in Germany? Such a solution would be no solution. It would leave the lives, the liberties, the homes and commerce and credit and the democratic rights of Europe in the hands of a few men of men who are responsible for the present lapse into barbarism. And can in fact Prussian militarism be effectively destroyed for the purposes of a lasting peace except by the act of the German people itself? 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